

Program Brief

“The Fight Against Human Trafficking: The Need for International Cooperation”

**Presentations by
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Background information provided by the
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The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime defines "trafficking in persons" as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

- **[HUMAN TRAFFICKING](http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/human_traff.htm)**

topical page from the website of the U.S. Embassy
(http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/human_traff.htm)

- **[Human Trafficking](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html)**

web page compiled by the Bureau of International Information Programs/ U.S. Department of State (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html)



- **[Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](http://www.state.gov/g/tip)**

U.S. Department of State (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip>)

- **[Campaign to Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/)**

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/>)

- **[Fact Sheets](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/factsheets.html)** (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/factsheets.html>)

- **[Trafficking in Persons Information](http://www.usdoj.gov/trafficking.htm)**

U.S. Department of Justice (<http://www.usdoj.gov/trafficking.htm>)

- **[Anti-Trafficking News Bulletins](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/antitraffic_bull.html)** (http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/antitraffic_bull.html)

REPORTS & DOCUMENTS

- [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 \(H.R. 2620\)](#)
An Act
To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.
(<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/28225.pdf>)
- [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 \(P.L. 106-386\)](#)
An Act
To combat trafficking in persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and involuntary servitude, to reauthorize certain Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.
(<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>)
- [Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment](#)
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons/ U.S. Department of State
January 3, 2005
(<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/40244.htm>)

Introduction

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President in December 2003, requires the Department of State to submit to the Congress an Interim Assessment of the progress made by countries on the September 2004 Special Watch List to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) since the June 2004 annual report.

This year 49 countries are on the Special Watch List. These countries either 1) had moved up a tier in the TIP Report over the last year or 2) were ranked on Tier 2 in the TIP Report but a) had not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address TIP, b) were placed on Tier 2 because of commitments to carry out additional future actions over the coming year, or c) had a large or growing number of trafficking victims. 46 of the 49 countries on the Special Watch List are in the second category - ranked as "Tier 2 Watch List," - including four countries initially ranked as "Tier 3" in the June 2004 TIP Report, but reassessed as Tier 2 Watch List countries by the State Department in September 2004 (Bangladesh, Ecuador, Guyana, and Sierra Leone).

The Interim Assessment is intended to serve as a tool by which to gauge the anti trafficking progress of countries that are in danger of slipping a tier in the upcoming June 2005 TIP Report, particularly those in danger of slipping to Tier 3.

It serves as a tightly focused progress report, assessing progress a government has made in addressing the relevant country's key deficiencies highlighted in the June 2004 TIP Report. The Interim Assessment concentrates on concrete actions governments have taken since the annual June 2004 TIP Report. Effectively this is a May through November timeframe, given the time that is needed to draft and publish the June TIP Report and this Interim Assessment. Readers are requested to refer back to the annual TIP Report for an analysis of large scale efforts and a description of the trafficking problem in each particular country.

- **[The U.S. Government's International Anti-Trafficking Programs](#)**

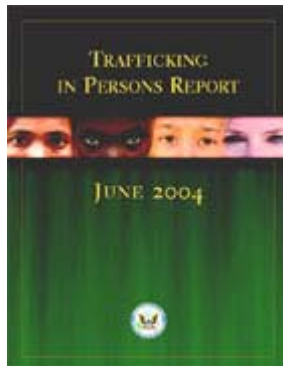
Fiscal Year 2003

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons/ U.S. Department of State

July 7, 2004

(<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/34182.htm>)

This document contains brief descriptions of international anti-trafficking programs supported with Fiscal Year 2003 funds from the Department of State, the Department of Labor, and the U.S. Agency for International Development and reflects only U.S. Government projects in foreign countries with a significant anti-trafficking component. Tier assessments are based on the [2003 Trafficking in Persons Report](#).



- **[Trafficking in Persons Report](#)**

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons/ U.S. Department of State

June 14, 2004

(<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/33192.htm>)

IV. Country Narratives: Europe and Eurasia

AUSTRIA (TIER 1)

Austria is a transit and destination country primarily for women trafficked to Austria from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, particularly Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The final destinations for most victims transiting through Austria are other European Union (EU) countries. Austrian police continued to notice increased trafficking of Romanian boys and Bulgarian girls to engage in begging, stealing, and possible sexual exploitation. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Task Force on Trafficking estimates 4,000 victims of trafficking in Vienna alone.

The Government of Austria fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The government was particularly strong in mounting cooperative efforts with authorities from other countries, at both national and sub-national levels, to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. Austrian authorities should take steps to ensure that convicted traffickers receive heavier sentences.

Prosecution

Austria expanded efforts to punish trafficking in persons in 2003. Several articles in the criminal code specifically prohibit trafficking and trafficking-related situations and impose sufficiently severe penalties. In February 2004, the Austrian parliament adopted an amendment to article 217 of the criminal code that expands the definition of trafficking to include exploitation of labor and the trafficking of organs. Under article 217, the key provision for the prosecution of traffickers, the government prosecuted 223 cases. The most recent conviction statistics, from 2002, indicate that the government filed 70 cases against suspected traffickers under this article, with 27 convictions. Seventeen of these persons spent some time in prison, with the majority serving a year or less. Prosecutors often rely on other provisions that criminalize alien smuggling, due to the difficulty of proving unlawful coercion and deception. Austrian authorities reported 744 prosecutions initiated in 2003 for alien smuggling crimes, some of which may involve suspected traffickers. The Interior Ministry's Federal Bureau of Criminal Affairs has a division dedicated solely to combating human trafficking. Four Austrian judges specialize in trafficking cases. Austrian law enforcement officials have established contacts with authorities in countries of origin to facilitate the prosecution of suspected traffickers. Because of a rise in trafficked victims from Romania, Austrian police have improved their liaison with Romanian counterparts. The government supports and funds NGO and government sensitivity training for police and other public authorities in Austria and in other countries. In April 2003, the government helped fund the first judicial training program for Stability Pact countries.

Protection

The Austrian Government continues strong efforts to protect victims of trafficking. The government funds NGOs that provide shelter, legal assistance, and health services to trafficking victims. Victims also have direct access to government-funded services, including women's shelters, located in each province. The Austrian Government commendably provides temporary resident status for trafficked victims. Officials have authority to delay repatriation proceedings pending completion of a court case. Victims of trafficking also have the opportunity to gain permanent residency in Austria. The Austrian Eastern European Cooperation, which forms part of the Austrian Development Assistance Organization, gave 1.7 million Euros to a women's shelter in Belgrade in 2003.

Prevention

The government worked actively with international and regional organizations (EU, Interpol, OSCE, and UN) and an NGO to carry out preventive programs domestically and throughout the region. The Ministry of Interior developed a new database to assist in tracking victims and perpetrators of trafficking. The Foreign Ministry developed and distributed information packets on trafficking for use in Austrian embassies and consulates in Eastern Europe.

- **[“Our Trafficking Signal: Stop!”](#)**
Op-Ed by Secretary Colin L. Powell
International Herald Tribune
June 14, 2004
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/33486.htm>

Today I presented the 2004 State Department [Report on Trafficking in Persons](#) to the President and the Congress, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. It’s no secret that Congress sometimes requires Executive Branch agencies to do things they might not otherwise choose to do, but in this case we have an example of complete institutional mind-meld.

Trafficking in persons is high on President Bush’s priority list, as he emphasized during his UN General Assembly speech this past September. “There’s a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable,” the President said, and all the agencies represented on the Interagency TIP Task Force that I chair agree.

We are genuinely “seized of the matter,” to use the standard diplomatic parlance, and the reason is obvious: The more you learn about how the most innocent and vulnerable among us are savaged by these crimes, the more impossible it becomes to look the other way. Women and girls as young as 6 years old being trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation; men are being trafficked into forced labor; children are being trafficked into war as child soldiers.

And the victims are not few. We estimate 600,000-800,000 cases each year of trafficking victims taken across international frontiers. And that does not include those who are victimized within their own countries. The vast majority of victims, international and otherwise, are women and children.

Numbers so large can freeze our imaginations. But every case is different, and every case is monstrous. Consider just one example. Southeast Asian traffickers took Khan, an 11-year-old girl living in the hills of Laos, to an embroidery factory in a large city. She and other children were made to work 14 hours a day for food and clothing, but no wages. When Khan protested this, she was beaten. When she protested again, she was stuffed into a closet where the factory owner’s son fired a gun pellet into her cheek and poured industrial chemicals over her.

Such horrors, multiplied hundreds of thousands-fold, must not stand unchallenged. Under the President’s direction, we have drawn unprecedented attention to the trafficking problem. The 2004 *Report*, like its predecessors, puts pressure on countries whose performances are deficient. Our TIP monitoring system has three tiers, and if a country’s practices land it in Tier 3, it faces significant sanctions. Several countries have cleaned up their acts to avoid Tier 3 status, and real people have been helped, real lives have been saved, as a result.

We’re also exerting ourselves more than ever to help victims of trafficking. The State Department supports Angel Coalition, which assists NGOs in Russia and is building an

international hotline to improve investigations of trafficking rings and to get more convictions in court. USAID funds the International Justice Mission, an NGO active in fighting trafficking in Cambodia. The work of these and other groups is heroic, and gives us hope that ever more people are joining the battle against trafficking worldwide.

But we are not satisfied with our progress. Up to 18,000 cases a year afflict our own country, despite the redoubling of our efforts under the Protect Act. And we are not satisfied with our progress abroad, because trafficking is linked to other problems of the gravest concern.

Trafficking is linked to international crime syndicates that peddle drugs, guns and false documents as well as people. Trafficking is a global public health threat that helps spread HIV/AIDS and other terrible diseases. And trafficking is a global security threat, because the profits from trafficking finance still more crime and violence.

A host of international covenants and national laws already condemn and outlaw trafficking, and that is good. But agreements and laws must be honored and enforced, fairly and consistently, if they are to matter. As we know from the campaigns of the past against piracy and the African slave trade, new norms take root only when the power of enforcement stands behind them.

That power cannot be just American power. Trafficking in persons is a transnational problem requiring transnational cooperation, and that cooperation is still wanting. We call upon all states to work harder and more closely together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims.

All nations, too, must redouble their determination to prevent people from being lured into trafficking in the first place. We are not naïve. The underlying sources of trafficking run deep. In many societies there is still a lack of basic respect and economic opportunity for women. Civil strife and corruption drive people to desperation, and into the clutches of traffickers. Racism plays a role, too, in some parts of the world.

Such evils cannot be eradicated in a single generation. Perhaps we cannot ever eradicate them entirely, but we can reduce and contain them. We won't know what we can achieve, however, if we don't try. So we try; we fight. Other barbarities in human society have been made taboo and conquered. After all, legalized slavery and piracy were once common practices. Many believed such evils could never be eliminated, just as some thought that polio and small pox would be scourges of humanity forever.

They were wrong, and their fatalism was a part of the problem. As we know, for evil to triumph it is enough that good men and women merely do nothing. We will not do nothing. Our goal regarding the crimes of trafficking in persons is the same as our goal regarding terrorism -- to stigmatize and stop both.

We fight not just for the victims, and potential victims, of human trafficking. We fight also for ourselves, because we cannot fully embrace our own dignity as human beings unless we

champion the dignity of others. We recognize this obligation as a variant of the Golden Rule, and that gold still shines as brightly as ever. It lights our path, and we will follow that path.

The 2004 *Report* is one step toward our ultimate success, and every step matters. I urge everyone to read this Report—it's posted at <http://www.state.gov/> - and to do what you can, in your own communities, to help us confront this challenge. We in Government will not stop until we put a stop to the crimes of human trafficking once and for all - but we welcome everyone's company on the journey.

- [Report to Congress from Attorney General John Ashcroft on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Fiscal Year 2003](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

May 1, 2004

(<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/speeches/2004/050104agreporttocongressvprav10.pdf>)

Trafficking in persons is a horrific crime and grotesque violation of human rights. The fact that an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people continue to be trafficked across international borders each year having been bought, sold, transported or held in slavery-like conditions for sex and labor exploitation is almost mind-boggling. Such a legacy from centuries past is startling. Today, in 2004, slavery ought to have been consigned to the dustbin of history. In the United States, where slavery was outlawed nationally more than 130 years ago, this tragic phenomenon should no longer exist. Yet it does.

The U.S. Government estimates that between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked annually into the United States. The nature of this crime – underground, often under-acknowledged – contributes to an inability to determine the precise number of people who are victimized by traffickers each year. The scope of this hideous exploitation is wide and varied, but typically involves victims entrapped in commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution, or labor exploitation in sweatshops, domestic servitude, construction sites and agricultural settings.

Trafficking is a transnational criminal enterprise that recognizes neither boundaries nor borders. Profits from trafficking feed the coffers of organized crime. Trafficking is linked to other criminal activities such as document fraud, money laundering and migrant smuggling. Moreover, as a matter of policy, the U.S. Government opposes prostitution and any related activities as contributing to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. These activities are inherently harmful and dehumanizing.

- [Trafficking in Women and Children: The U.S. and International Response](#)

CRS Report, Congressional Research Service/ Library of Congress

Updated March 26, 2004

(<http://www.usembassy.at/en/download/pdf/trafficking.pdf>)

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

The Bush administration and Congress have continued to give priority to the trafficking problem. The State Department issued its third Congressionally mandated report on worldwide trafficking in June 2003. It categorized countries according to the efforts they were making to combat trafficking. Those countries that do not cooperate in the fight against trafficking were made subject to U.S. sanctions, starting in 2003. Thus far, sanctions under this legislation have been applied only to Burma, Liberia, Cuba, North Korea, and Sudan.

In December 2003, Congress adopted the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, authorizing appropriations for FY2004 and FY2005. The bill was signed into law by President Bush on December 19, 2003 (P.L. 108-193).

The United States and other countries have also initiated bilateral and multilateral programs and initiatives to combat trafficking. The United States is working with the European Union, the Group of Eight, the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and a number of individual countries to combat trafficking in women and children. In 2000, the U.N.

General Assembly adopted the Convention on Transnational Crime, including a Protocol on Trafficking. A Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography was signed by the United States in July 2000.

- [Responses to Human Trafficking](#)

Electronic Journal

Bureau of International Information Programs/ U.S. Department of State

June 2003

(<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0603/ijge/ijge0603.htm>)

Around the world, diverse organizations have joined governments in the campaign to eradicate human trafficking, working together to thwart criminal organizations that seek profit from enslavement. Whether in the courts, in the media, or in targeted local campaigns, law enforcement officers and human rights activists are finding ways to rescue victims from indentured servitude, forced prostitution, and child labor. At the same time, organizations and governments are conducting broad educational campaigns to prevent other innocents from falling prey to this 21st century form of slavery.

FACT SHEETS

- [Sex Trafficking, The United States, and Europe](#)
Bureau of International Information Programs/ U.S. Department of State
January 6, 2005
(<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Jan/06-705748.html>)

Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States.

- President Bush, July 16, 2004

Trafficking in human beings - often called modern day slavery - involves forced labor, most often of men, women and children in the commercial sex industry as prostitutes, but it can also involve forced labor in factories, fields, restaurants and homes. Traffickers prey on the ignorance or aspirations of people living in war-torn areas or in despair or poverty, often promising them a legitimate job opportunity. Once under the trafficker's control, the victim is then coerced or misled into work beyond legal protection.

- [The Link Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking](#)
Bureau of Public Affairs/ U.S. Department of State
November 24, 2004
(<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/38790.htm>)



Photos ©DOL, Faces of Change

Prostitution and related activities—including pimping and patronizing or maintaining brothels—fuel the growth of modern-day slavery by providing a façade behind which traffickers for sexual exploitation operate.

Where prostitution is legalized or tolerated, there is a greater demand for human trafficking victims and nearly always an increase in the number of women and children trafficked into commercial sex slavery.

Of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually, 80 percent of victims are female, and up to 50 percent are minors. Hundreds of thousands of these women and children are used in prostitution each year.

- **[Ending Child Sex Tourism: Fighting Trafficking in Persons](#)**

Bureau of Public Affairs/ U.S. Department of State

September 2, 2004

(<http://www.state.gov/p/io/fs/2004/36409.htm>)

What All Nations Can Do

Education and awareness are the keys to the prevention of trafficking in persons, especially of children. The United States is asking governments to immediately expand and invigorate their anti-trafficking efforts.

Increased rescues of trafficking victims and prosecutions of traffickers are critically needed. People freed from slavery must be treated as victims of crime, not criminals.

In collaboration with other countries to combat trafficking in persons, the U.S. seeks to build on the "Three Ps":

- Prevention of trafficking through such efforts as publicity of the threat and shared commitment to fight it;
- Protection of victims, including rescue and rehabilitation; and,
- Prosecution of perpetrators.

- **[Citizen Action: How Can I Help End Modern-Day Slavery?](#)**

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons/ U.S. Department of State

August 9, 2004

(<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/35011.htm>)

Human trafficking takes on many forms in the 21st century with people becoming trapped into lives of servitude and misery through varied avenues and methods. Foreigners who enter the United States legally or illegally may have to pay their "smugglers" or middle-men exorbitant fees. Some people arrive believing they'll have a legitimate job as a housekeeper or nanny and end up as domestic slaves unable to leave their traffickers' homes. Others are completely tricked and end up in forced, commercial, sexual exploitation. Some men believe they'll earn money working on a farm, but find themselves working to pay off the inflated "debt" from "travel costs" - working months and years on end while the traffickers pocket their earnings.

- **[How Can I Recognize Trafficking Victims?](#)**

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons/ U.S. Department of State

July 28, 2004

(<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/34563.htm>)

Because trafficking in persons is usually an "underground" crime, it can be difficult for law-enforcement personnel, the public, or service providers to readily identify a trafficking victim and/or a trafficking scenario. There have been cases of victims escaping and reporting the situation to the police. However, many are physically unable to leave their work sites without an escort and are not free to contact family, friends, or members of the public.

There are many factors that can tip off the general public, law enforcement personnel, or service organizations that a trafficking scenario may be taking place locally.



- **[Human Trafficking: A New Form of Slavery](#)**

The White House

July 16, 2004

(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/07/20040716-3.html>)

The President has taken strong action to combat trafficking at home and abroad. He supported and signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 and the PROTECT Act, both of which strengthen the tools law enforcement authorities use to combat trafficking crimes and ensure that victims of trafficking are rescued and supported. Since 2001, the Bush Administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries.

- **[Facts About Human Trafficking](#)**

Bureau of Public Affairs/ U.S. Department of State

May 24, 2004

(<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/33109.htm>)

What needs to be done?

When dealing with an issue of this importance and urgency, there is much to be done. The U.S. is asking governments to immediately take action to step up their anti-trafficking efforts:

There is a critical need for increased rescues of trafficking victims and prosecutions of traffickers.

People freed from slavery must be treated as victims of crime, not criminals.

The demand for modern-day slaves must be stopped. This is not a victimless or harmless crime, and the public should be informed of the risks involved with it.

- [Fighting Human Trafficking Inside the United States](#)
Bureau of International Information Programs/ U.S. Department of State
May 12, 2004
(<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2004/May/12-381449.html>)

In 2003, the U.S. government devoted nearly \$74 million to combat the worldwide trafficking in human beings, but the United States is equally committed to combating trafficking inside its borders.

U.S. Laws

The keystone of the U.S. government's response to modern day slavery is the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), enacted into law in October 2000. Designed to intensify the fight against trafficking and increase penalties, the TVPA requires federal agencies to combat trafficking domestically and to work with other nations to address this problem internationally.

The President reaffirmed the administration's commitment to this issue when he signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act in December 2003.

- [Recent Developments in U.S. Government Efforts to End Human Trafficking](#)
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons/ U.S. Department of State
February 5, 2004
(<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2004/Feb/09-415385.html>)

Human trafficking denies hundreds of thousands of people their basic human rights, poses a serious public health risk, and fuels organized crime around the world. It is a dark and uncomfortable subject, but one that must be illuminated.

The United States has taken significant action to combat trafficking in persons, including trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

SPEECHES & STATEMENTS

Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have joined together to confront the evil of trafficking in human beings. We're supporting organizations that rescue the victims, passing stronger anti-trafficking laws, and warning travelers that they will be held to account for supporting this modern form of slavery. Women and children should never be exploited for pleasure or greed, anywhere on Earth.

- [President Bush at the UN General Assembly](#), September 21, 2004
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/09/20040921-3.html>)

- **Special Message on Protecting Child Tsunami Victims**
**Ambassador John R. Miller, Director, Office to Monitor and Combat
 Trafficking in Persons/ U.S. Department of State**
January 7, 2005
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/2005/40437.htm>

Just as the world is coming together in heroic ways to provide relief to people impacted by the tsunamis and to assist in the rebuilding of communities, we urge everyone involved in the region to come together to prevent human trafficking. We should work to ensure criminals who prey on others for financial gain do not compound the damage and suffering caused by the natural disaster.

Some actions to reduce human trafficking:

- We encourage those working in the region to warn potential victims of human trafficking schemes.
 - We encourage those providing shelter and care to register and protect those people in their facilities, particularly children. Women and children should not be placed in isolated areas of shelters or camps.
 - We encourage those hiring new or temporary employees for relief work to educate new hires about human trafficking and outline a zero-tolerance policy for employees involved in human trafficking.
- **"Trafficking in Persons"**
Jim Nicholson, Ambassador to the Holy See
**Conference at St. Thomas University Law School Entitled "Invisible Chains:
 Breaking the Ties of Trafficking in Persons"**
Miami Gardens, Florida
November 12, 2004
<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rm/38249.htm>

As unimaginable as it may seem, today there are millions of women and children around the world enslaved without a voice in situations of forced labor and sexual exploitation from which they cannot free themselves. This horrific phenomenon is the third largest crime in the world, behind only the illicit sale of drugs and arms.

In the face of this suffering, free nations, led by the United States, that respect human rights and defend human dignity have started to fight back. President Bush has made this one of his top priorities; reflected in his decision to create an office in the State Department to lead the international battle, which is so ably lead by Ambassador Miller, here today. Both President Bush and Ambassador Miller understand that this is a humanitarian crisis. They understand that the victims of trafficking see little of life before they see the very worst of life - an underground of brutality and lonely fear.

- [President Bush Announces Initiatives to Combat Human Trafficking](#)
Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel
Tampa, Florida
July 16, 2004
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/07/20040716-11.html>)

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime - and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty-two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, last year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide, 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries. We're taking the lead. We are helping other governments to develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters, and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

- [Prepared Remarks of Attorney General John Ashcroft](#)
National Conference on Human Trafficking
Tampa, Florida
July 16, 2004
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/speeches/2004/71604humantraffickingagfinal.htm>)

In the past three fiscal years, the Department of Justice has:

- Charged 110 traffickers. That is nearly a three-fold increase over the previous three fiscal years. Of these, 78 included sex-trafficking charges.
- In this fiscal year alone, we have charged an additional 43 traffickers.
- And as of July 2004, the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division had 168 open trafficking investigations, 98 of which were opened since the start of the fiscal year.
- Thus far, of the trafficking cases that have gone to trial, the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division has gained convictions or obtained guilty pleas from 107 defendants.
- This number is significant. It represents a 100 percent conviction rate in our human trafficking prosecutions.

- ["Ending Modern Day Slavery: U.S. Efforts To Combat Trafficking in Persons"](#)
Paula J. Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs
Remarks to the Northern California World Affairs Council
San Francisco, California
March 30, 2004
<http://www.state.gov/g/rls/rm/2004/31063.htm>)

Separating young women and children from their families and friends and forcing them into involuntary servitude - including some of the most horrendous and terrifying work one can imagine - is truly a modern day form of slavery. A strong desire to stop these egregious human rights abuses and terrible crimes prompted the U.S. Congress to act by passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000.

This law seeks to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and provide for protection of trafficking victims. It also recognizes that previously existing legislation and law enforcement in the United States and other countries was inadequate to deter trafficking and bring traffickers to justice. Before 2000, no comprehensive law existed in America that penalized the range of offenses involved in trafficking. Instead, even the most brutal instances of trafficking were often punished under laws that also applied to lesser offenses, so that traffickers typically escaped the full punishment they deserved.

The Act asserts that "Trafficking in persons is a modern form of slavery, and it is the largest manifestation of slavery today." It describes the scope of the trafficking problem. Approximately 18,000-20,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year. The United States is both a transit and a destination country, but not a source country. Worldwide, the annual number of victims is closer to one million. Many of these individuals are trafficked into the sex trade, often by force, fraud, or coercion. Consequently, commercial sexual exploitation has rapidly expanded over the past several decades. But trafficking is not limited to such commercial sexual exploitation - it also includes forced labor and involves significant violations of human rights and public health and safety standards worldwide.

MEDIA ITEM

Human Trafficking and Slavery. Are the World's Nations Doing Enough to Stamp it Out?

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From the villages of Sudan to the factories, sweatshops and brothels of India and South Asia, slavery and human trafficking still flourish. Some 27 million people worldwide are held in some form of slavery, forced prostitution or bonded labor. Some humanitarian groups buy captives' freedom, but critics say that only encourages slave traders to seize more victims. Meanwhile, nearly a million people are forcibly trafficked across international borders annually and held in captivity. Even in the United States, thousands of women and children from overseas are forced to become sex workers. Congress recently strengthened the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, but critics say it is still not tough enough, and that certain U.S. allies that harbor traffickers are treated with "kid gloves" for political reasons.

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